(e) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (e) Gas Authority of India had prepared a report for an integrated gas grid in Assam, including a pipeline upto Guwahati. Subsequently, after discussions with Government of Assam, it was agreed that the pipeline could be terminated at Jorhat. Government of Assam have requested that the pipeline be constructed by Assam Gas Co. on its own or in a joint venture with GAIL Government of India had suggested that while GAIL could construct a trunk pipeline, Assam Gas Co. could undertake the marketing of the gas and construction of distribution lines. This would be in keeping with the policy of central public sector undertaking construction trunk pipelines, and would also ensure effective implementation of the project by way of a reasonable division of the work.

Increase in the number of vehicles

3451. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the increase in the number (not percentage) of Two wheelers, Three wheelers and passenger cars in 1987 as compared to 1986; and

(b) what is likely to be the position with regard to the increase in the numbers of such vehicles in 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The comparative figures are given below:

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88 (Apr-Jan)
Passenger cars	1,02,804	1.24,694	1,26,388
Two-wheelers	11,83,565	13,87,403	11,13,197
Three-wheelers	49,947	54,550	51,983

(b) The Sub-Group on Automobiles and Earth-moving Industry for VIIth Plan has assessed the demand for these vehicles for 1988-89 as under:

Passenger cars . . .	1,35000 Nos.
Two-wheelers . . .	16,60,000 ,,
Three-wheelers . . .	72,000 ,,

मारुति कारों की ऊंची कीमतें

3452. **श्री रशीद मसूद** : क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान, मार्च, 1988 के "इकोनोमिक टाइम्स" में "मारुति प्राइसेज हाई" शीर्षक के अन्तर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री जे० वेंगलराव) : (क) सरकार ने उक्त समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित "मारुति प्राइसेज हाईक्ड" शीर्षक के अन्तर्गत एक समाचार देखा है ।

(ख) 29-2-1988 को बजट भाषण में उत्पाद शुल्क पर 5 प्रतिशत अधिभार घोषित किये जाने के परिणामस्वरूप 1-3-1988 से मारुति वाहनों के मूल्य में वृद्धि कर दी गई थी ।

Honey producing districts of Orissa

3453. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of honey producing districts of Orissa;

(b) whether Government have provided any financial assistance for the development of honey production in the hilly district of Mayurbhanj;

(c) whether Government propose to encourage the tribal of Orissa by providing to them modren technical equipment for collecting honey; and

(d) if so, what is the number of beneficiaries category-wise and details of other tribals engaged in honey collection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) As far as bee-keeping industry under Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is concerned, the honey producing districts of Orissa are; Cuttack, Dhenkanal Ganjam, Kalahandi Keonjhar, Phulbani and Koraput.

(b) As per the liberalised pattern of assistance for hill, border, tribal and weaker section areas financial assistance for capital expenditure to purchase implements and equipment viz., bee boxes, honey extractors etc. is given at 75 per cent grant of 25 per cent loan both to institutions and individuals including the hilly district of Mayurbhanj in Orissa.

(c) Yes, Sir. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) have formulated special programme to encourage the tribals of Orissa in the development of bee-keeping in districts of Kalahandi, Koraput and Phulbani for the year 1987-88 under which financial assistance of Rs. 1,20,000 as grant and an equivalent amount as loan has been made available to Orissa State Khadi and Village Industries Board for financing individual bee-keepers for purchase of improved implements and equipment. This is in addition to the normal programmes undertaken by KVIC for development of bee-keeping in Orissa.

(d) The total number of bee-keepers under bee-keeping industry of KVIC in Orissa State during 1986-87 was 28,000 out of which 45 were women, 339 scheduled castes and 7,459 scheduled tribes.

Appointment of dealers for LPG in Modinagar

3454. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has decided to appoint dealers/distributors of LPG domestic gas in Modinagar town, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether any applications have been received therefor by the BPCL;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what efforts are being made to help unemployed graduates, amongst others; and

(e) which are the other areas in Western Uttar Pradesh where BPCL propose to open such outlets during the year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) and (c) BPCL has received 54 applications for the proposed distributorship; these have been forwarded to OSB (North) for processing in accordance with the prescribed procedure;

(d) The existing policy provides that 55 per cent of the distributorships should be in the "Open" category with preference for unemployed Graduates;